



INFO-ALERT

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Independence Day is regarded as the birthday of the United States as a free and independent nation. Most Americans simply call it the "Fourth of July," on which date it always falls.

The following articles illuminate aspects of U.S. history and values, and provide a snapshot of some of the diverse ways in which Americans have celebrated the Fourth of July.

The Origins of Flag Day

The early history of the U.S. flag and Flag Day is a matter of debate. Both President Wilson, in 1916, and President Coolidge, in 1927, issued proclamations asking for June 14 to be observed as the National Flag Day. But it wasn't until August 3, 1949, that Congress approved the national observance, and President Harry Truman signed it into law.

The American Revolution: An Update by Dean Schneider

The best literature brings alive both the political and philosophical ideas of the American Revolution and its human drama. For young readers, there are many excellent fiction and nonfiction books. Beyond the textbook presentations of the American Revolution, there are tales of battles and friendships, spies and betrayal, daily life and extraordinary adventures. This bibliography presents a wealth of available books for children and young adults. The author has tried to select the books that are the most accurate, lively, and attractive for young readers.

Seamstress for a Revolution by William C. Kashatus

Kashatus details the life of Betsy Ross, a seamstress who lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the 1770s, and her prominent role in the history of the flag of the United States. There is controversy surrounding the claim of her descendants that she was the one who designed and made the first U.S. flag during the War of Independence.

Making Sense of the Fourth of July by Pauline Maier

Maier discusses the history of the Fourth of July, which celebrates the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and how the Declaration came to be the primary expression of American freedom.

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Winter of Discontent by Norman Gelb

Even as he endured the hardships of Valley Forge, George Washington faced another challenge: critics who questioned his fitness to lead.

The U.S. Constitution: America's Most Important Export by Albert P. Blaustein

This essay, written to commemorate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, assesses the attraction of America's fundamental political document to nations struggling to achieve democracy, and outlines how the document has been used as a model by other governments in crafting their own constitutions.

The Idea of America by Morghan Transue

As part of the "We the People" initiative, the National Endowment for the Humanities invited high school juniors across the United States to submit essays that explore what it is that connects the United States as a nation. More than thirteen hundred essays were submitted. This winning essay examines the belief of most Americans that governmental "checks and balances" safeguard American democracy.

Independence Day, Apart from the Fireworks by James D. Bloom

Each year, on July 4, Americans celebrate their freedom and independence with great fanfare. But writers and artists have often seen a deeper meaning in what is for most Americans a celebratory occasion. Like writers everywhere, they tend to probe and analyze this powerful symbolic event for nuanced reflection on the values that underlie the Fourth of July. As a result, the national holiday in classic American literature sometimes takes on an ironic or shadowed cast.

Independence Day in Bristol, Rhode Island by Carol McCabe

This July, Bristol, a coastal town founded in 1680, will again celebrate Independence Day with its historic Military, Civic and Firemen's Parade. The first mention of Independence Day in Bristol dates from July 1777, when a British officer heard celebratory sounds across the waters of Narragansett Bay: "This being the first anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Rebel Colonies, they ushered in the morning by firing 13 cannons, one for each colony."

Our Flag Was Still There by Edwards Park

It's the Star-Spangled Banner; the anthem it inspired plays on as a musical salute to the Stars and Stripes.

Celebrating the Fourth of July by Marian I. Doyle

After the American Revolution, towering bonfires were lit the night before the Fourth, and bells, guns and cannons greeted the morning.

Dr. Franklin's Plan by Stephan A. Schwartz

Years before the United States became a nation, Founding Father Benjamin Franklin had a plan for the kind of country he wanted it to be.

Home of the Brave by Bo Niles

Independence Day is a good time to examine who Americans are and how they got there.

The Iconography of Triumph and Surrender by Robert A. Selig

From Trumbull to Kunstler, dozens of painters, engravers, and lithographers have tried their hands and skills at depicting the plains outside Yorktown, Virginia, as they may have looked on the day the British army surrendered to Colonial troops in 1781.

Patriot Alley by Edward E. Ericson, Jr.

A traditional Fourth of July parade is the highlight of a neighborhood celebration that continues to attract strong interest in the 1990s. Ericson chronicles the history of the celebration, which began in 1934.

Playing with Fire by Jack Kelly

Legion Fireworks has carried on a venerable craft tradition that has permeated pyrotechnics since it arrived in Italy from China 500 years ago. The history of fireworks and their use in celebration is presented.

The Spirit of Independence by Linda Barth

History happened in Independence, Missouri, the hometown of President Harry S. Truman.

Torpedo Patriotism by Jack Kelly

Firecrackers, fountains and bottle rockets that ordinary citizens shoot off in their back yards, known in the fireworks industry as "toy" fireworks, are as equally replete with tradition and nostalgia as their larger counterparts.

The Embassy will be closed for business on Monday, July 4, 2005 for Independence Day.

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POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

THE BUSH DOCTRINE IS DEAD; LONG LIVE THE BUSH DOCTRINE?

Donald C.F. Daniel, Peter Dombrowski, and Rodger A. Payne (*Orbis*, Spring 2005, 14 pages)

Should the Bush Doctrine remain the touchstone for American security policy in the coming years, despite its critics? The authors argue that the fate of the Bush Doctrine is critical to the future of U.S. foreign policy and to the evolution of the international security environment. They examine three stark policy alternatives the Bush administration must weigh in its second term.

HOW WE WOULD FIGHT CHINA

Robert Kaplan (*Atlantic Monthly*, June 2005, 9 pages)

Robert Kaplan, an *Atlantic* correspondent, believes that China's rise as a global military power will be the preeminent challenge that the United States will face in the twenty-first century -- a new Cold War that could last for several generations. He believes that a Bismarck-style network of alliances is crucial to dissuade China from overt military action and draw it into the orbit of the Honolulu-based U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM), which is forging military ties with Pacific Rim nations.

THE NETWORK PARADIGM OF STRATEGIC PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

R.S. Zaharna (*Foreign Policy in Focus Policy Brief*, April 2005, 4 pages)

Yesterday, the communicator with the most information won. Today, the one with the most extensive and strongest network wins. U.S. public diplomacy needs to switch its strategic focus to start building bridges and forging a network between the United States and international publics says Zaharna, associate professor in the school of Communication at American University, and an analyst for *Foreign Policy In Focus*.

IMPERIAL LIBERALISM

Robert Cooper (*National Interest*, Spring 2005, 10 pages)

Can American power be used to promote democracy? The author examines the problem of power in a democratic age, and concludes that American power, or at least its military power, may not be the best instrument for this goal.

ALL TOOLS AT OUR DISPOSAL: ADDRESSING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IN A POST-9/11 WORLD

House Policy Committee, Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs
(*U.S. House of Representatives*, January 2005, 24 pages)

The spread of nuclear materials and technology to previously non-nuclear nations, and to non-state entities, such as terrorists, has become one of the most serious threats to U.S. national security. The authors call for a broader approach to nuclear nonproliferation, and have identified seven strategies for doing so.

U.S. VISA POLICY: SECURING BORDERS AND OPENING DOORS

Maura Harty (*Washington Quarterly*, Spring 2005, 11 pages)

The Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs, Maura Harty contends that, after an initial adjustment period to the September 11 tragedy, U.S. visa procedures have turned a corner and should not continue to be perceived as a barrier to travel to or study in the United States.

THE MEDIA AS AN INSTRUMENT OF WAR

Kenneth Payne (*Parameters*, Spring 2005, 13 pages)

Winning modern wars is as much dependent on carrying domestic and international public opinion as it is on defeating the enemy on the battlefield. The laws and conventions of war, however, do not adequately reflect the critical role that the media play in shaping the political outcome of conflicts. The fragile relationship between the media and the military is discussed.

A GLOBAL ANSWER TO GLOBAL PROBLEMS

Paul Martin (*Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2005, 5 pages)

The G-20 has helped the world's economic leaders go from simply managing crises to making long-term improvements in the international economy. Now a new leaders' forum -- called the L-20 could do something similar for political problems.

A NUCLEAR POSTURE FOR TODAY

John Deutch (*Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2005, 12 pages)

The U.S. nuclear posture should be reflective of the current geo-political situation, says John Deutch, Institute Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and former CIA Director, noting that the nature of nuclear threats has changed from a large-scale attack to the use of one or a few devices by a rogue nation. The American nuclear posture must encourage international nonproliferation efforts without sacrificing the United States' ability to deter a nuclear attack.

GLOBALIZATION AND ITS CONTENTS

Peter Marber (*World Policy Journal*, Winter 2004/2005, 9 pages)

For many, the meaning of globalization has been shaped largely by media coverage of an angry opposition. But, according to Peter Marber, faculty member at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, behind the negative headlines lies a story of human progress and promise that should make even the most pessimistic analysts view globalization in an entirely different light.

A GLOBAL GOOD NEIGHBOR ETHIC FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Tom Barry, et al. (*Foreign Policy in Focus Report*, May 2005, 32 pages)

Has there ever been a model for a dramatic shift away from militarism and unilateralism toward international cooperation and peace? Tom Barry, policy director of the International Relations Center and the founder of Foreign Policy In Focus, looks back in the history of the United States and explores the Good Neighbor Policy that President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed in the 1930s as a fresh perspective on international relations and U.S. foreign affairs.

ECONOMICS & TRADE

TRADE AGREEMENTS: IMPACT ON THE U.S. ECONOMY

James K. Jackson (*CRS Report for Congress*, April 20, 2005, 23 pages)

This report examines the major features of economic models being used to estimate the effects of trade agreements. James Jackson, Specialist in International Trade and Finance, Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division, CRS, assesses the strengths and weaknesses of the models as an aid in helping Congress evaluate the economic impact of trade agreements on the U.S. economy. In addition, this report identifies and assesses some of the assumptions used in the economic models and how these assumptions affect the data generated by the models. Finally, this report evaluates the implications for Congress of various options it may consider as it assesses trade agreements.

IMMIGRATION AND THE U.S. ECONOMY: THE PUBLIC'S PERSPECTIVE

Robert J. Blendon, et al (*Challenge*, March-April 2005, 20 pages)

Americans think of themselves as a nation of immigrants, but in times of economic pressure, immigration has become a burning issue. In this article, eight opinion survey experts analyze current surveys and historical ones on how Americans view immigration.

CHINA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH: SOURCE OF DISORDER?

Robert Wang (*Foreign Service Journal*, May 2005, 6 pages)

China's rapid economic growth has raised concerns about its ramifications for the region and the rest of the world, says Robert Wang, economic minister-counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing since 2002. However, he cautions, it is important to put China's emergence in proper perspective: its 2004 GDP of \$1.65 trillion is still about one-seventh that of the United States, one-third that of Japan, and about the size of the British economy. Assuming China's economy continues to grow in spite of its many challenges, it is in the best interest of the international community -- both economically and politically -- to make room for it and other developing economies, he notes. Support for further integration into the global community will help ensure that the required adjustments in the world order promote stability rather than instability, argues Wang.

DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

THE STATE OF DEMOCRATIZATION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Larry Diamond (*Whitehead Journal of Diplomacy*, Winter-Spring 2005, 6 pages)

Larry Diamond, co-editor of the *Journal of Democracy* and Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, describes the worldwide acceptance of democracy as the most legitimate form of government. Despite some nations backsliding from democracies to "semi-democracies" and expressions of anti-Americanism, there is no broad preference for a non-democratic form of government. Diamond states that new democracies must respond to the "triple crisis of governance" by controlling corruption, strengthening the rule of law, improving economic entrepreneurship, and managing ethnic and regional conflict.

THE RECENT EVOLUTION OF DEMOCRACY

Matt Leighninger (*National Civic Review*, Spring 2005, 12 pages)

Matt Leighninger, senior associate of the Study Circles Resource Center, discusses a new definition of democracy, one in which people take a more active role in public problem solving.

SOCIAL ISSUES & VALUES, EDUCATION & THE ARTS

WILL GREAT CITIES SURVIVE?

Joel Kotkin (*Wilson Quarterly*, Spring 2005, 12 pages)

Megacities such as Los Angeles, New York City or Hong Kong have been among humanity's supreme achievements down through the ages, but they now face an uncertain future. The author details what makes a successful and prosperous city, as well as the forces that could bring it down.

THE SPACE BETWEEN: CREATING A CONTEXT FOR LEARNING

J.C. Herz (*EDUCAUSE Review*, May-June 2005, 7 pages)

To create a new context for learning, higher education needs to find the opportunities in the space between the raw technology and the new tools, between the way that things have traditionally been done and the way that things can possibly be done.

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT? GOALS, INDICATORS, VALUES, AND PRACTICE

Robert W. Kates, Thomas M. Parris, and Anthony A. Leiserowitz (*Environment*, April 2005, 12 pages)

Since the term "sustainable development" was coined, a core set of guiding principles and values has evolved around it. However, its definition remains fluid, allowing institutions, programs of environment and development, and places -- from local to global -- to project their own aspirations onto the banner of sustainable development.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

THE DIGITAL DYNAMIC: HOW COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA SHAPE OUR WORLD

M. Rex Miller (*Futurist*, May/Jun 2005, 4 pages)

Television began entering homes less than 60 years ago and swiftly changed almost every aspect of human life - from business and education to politics and sports. Now, digital communications - computers, PDAs, the Internet, Blackberries, etc. - are bringing another communications revolution that is likely to produce an even more radical transformation of peoples' lives. Clearly, managing the transition into the Digital Era will not be easy or problem free.